

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 118518
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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:NGANDREWS
APPROVED BY EUR:GSVEST
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 118518

FOR AMBASSADOR BYRNE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OEXC, TGEN, CU, US

SUBJECT: CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES AGREEMENT

1. WE HAVE THOROUGHLY REVIEWED THE QUESTION OF MOVING
AHEAD TO WRAP UP AND SIGN THE CULTURAL/SCIENTIFIC
EXCHANGES AGREEMENT WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA THIS SUMMER.
ON BALANCE, WE HAVE DECIDED THAT THE TIMING WAS POOR
AND WOULD GIVE US PROBLEMS.

2. WE ACCEPT THE NEED TO BEGIN OPENING DOORS TO
CZECHOSLOVAK OFFICES, INSTITUTIONS, UNIVERSITIES AND
ORGANIZATIONS IN ORDER TO BEGIN THE PROCESS OF
WIDENING THE HORIZONS AND INFLUENCING THE OUTLOOK OF
THE BUREAUCRATIC INTELLIGENTSIA. WE ALSO RECOGNIZE THAT
THE CZECHOSLOVAKS HAVE CLEARED UP A NUMBER OF DIVIDED
FAMILY CASES.

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3. HOWEVER, WE ARE CONCERNED THAT TAKING SUCH A STEP
THIS SUMMER COULD BE CONSTRUED AS A SIGN THAT WE ARE
SATISFIED WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR RELATIONS WITH
CZECHOSLOVAKIA. FURTHERMORE, WE WILL HAVE MANY
REMINDERS OF THE REPRESSIVE ORIGINS OF THE PRESENT
REGIME AS THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1968 EVENT APPROACHES.

FINALLY THERE ARE MANY AREAS WHERE OUR RELATIONS HAVE NOT MOVED FORWARD, AND THE CZECH OFFICIAL ATTITUDE TOWARD THE U.S. HAS NOT MARKEDLY IMPROVED.

4. WE HAVE DECIDED THEREFORE THAT WE SHOULD NOT CONCLUDE AND SIGN THIS AGREEMENT THIS SPRING OR SUMMER. THIS MAY REQUIRE A SUSPENSION OF FURTHER DETAILED TALKS WITH THE CZECHS FOR A FEW MONTHS, AND YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO SUSPEND THEM AT YOUR DISCRETION. IN THE FALL WE WILL REEXAMINE THE MATTER.

5. WE KNOW THAT THIS DECISION IS LIKELY TO BE DISAPPOINTING TO YOU AND THE STAFF. IT IS DIFFICULT SITTING IN PRAGUE WITH NO OPPORTUNITIES TO MOVE THIS RELATIONSHIP OFF DEAD CENTER. BUT WE WILL BE SEEKING IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS A NEW APPROACH ON THE GOLD/CLAIMS ISSUE. VANCE

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